

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) A binding compound comprising an antibody or a binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to:

at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 17.

12. (previously presented) The binding compound of Claim 11, wherein:

a) said binding compound is:

immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 17;

or

b) said binding compound is:

- 1) an antibody molecule;
- 2) present in a polyclonal antiserum;
- 3) detectably labeled;
- 4) sterile; or
- 5) in a buffered composition.

13. (original) A method using the binding compound of Claim 11, comprising contacting said binding compound with a biological sample comprising an antigen, thereby forming a binding compound:antigen complex.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said biological sample is from a human, and wherein said binding compound is an antibody.

15. (previously presented) A detection kit comprising said binding compound of Claim 12, and:

a) instructional material for the use of said binding compound for said detection; or

b) a compartment providing segregation of said binding compound from other kit reagents.

16-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The binding compound of claim 11, wherein the binding compound is a monoclonal antibody.

22. (previously presented) The binding compound of claim 11, wherein the binding compound is a humanized antibody.

23. (Currently amended) A binding compound comprising an antibody or a binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to a protein ~~encoded by~~ of SEQ ID NO: 17.